

**To:** Schmittiel, Paula[Schmittiel.Paula@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Sisk, Richard[Sisk.Richard@epa.gov]; Fagen, Elizabeth[Fagen.Elizabeth@epa.gov]; Wall, Dan[wall.dan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Peterson, Cynthia  
**Sent:** Tue 2/3/2015 8:06:08 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Durango Herald - questions

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Paula, I think she may have questions about the two remedial options that were evaluated in the OTEQ model. Could you add a couple of sentences about that?

Thanks!

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Cynthia Peterson

Community Involvement Coordinator

Public Affairs and Community Involvement U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII

1595 Wynkoop St. (8OC-PAI)

Denver, CO 80202-1129

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**From:** Schmittiel, Paula  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 12:22 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Cynthia  
**Cc:** Sisk, Richard; Fagen, Elizabeth; Wall, Dan  
**Subject:** RE: Durango Herald - questions  
**Importance:** High

Here are my draft responses to the DH's questions. Please feel free to edit, correct, change, delete, etc. Please respond to all as Cynthia is on deadline for a response to DH by 3:30 today and I will be leaving ~2:40 pm.

Thanks.

Paula Schmittiel

Remedial Project Manager

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**From:** Peterson, Cynthia  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 7:27 AM  
**To:** Sisk, Richard; Schmittdiel, Paula; Fagen, Elizabeth  
**Cc:** Faulk, Libby; Mylott, Richard  
**Subject:** FW: Durango Herald - questions

Hi, Richard and Paula.

I spoke with Chase McAlister from the Durango Herald briefly yesterday afternoon. She had some questions that I felt would be better answered by the two of you. I asked that she email them to me so that I could get them to the right folks. Could you take a look below and get your answers back to me by 3:30 this afternoon. I will send them to her along with some additional information I'd like to give her regarding a couple of questions I answered yesterday.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like more information.

Thanks!

Cynthia

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Cynthia Peterson

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**From:** Chase Olivarius-McAllister [mailto:[cbomcallister@gmail.com](mailto:cbomcallister@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 02, 2015 4:43 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Cynthia  
**Subject:** Durango Herald - questions

Dear Cynthia,

Thank you so much for taking the time to speak with me on the phone.

At the most recent meeting of the Animas River Stakeholders Group, Paula Schmidil said:

***"I think one thing you can look at is the [OPEC] model that was presented last September. That demonstrates that not all the contamination is coming from Cement Creek. So addressing - just focusing on Cement Creek - may not get us to where everybody would like to be an improvement in Animas River water quality."***

Over the course of the last two years, in previous interviews, EPA officials and scientists have always said that Cement Creek is the crux of problem in the Animas River.

Is there new data to suggest that it isn't? Why is the EPA seemingly changing its interpretation of what's causing the environmental damage to the Upper Animas River?

Sources close to the ARSG have characterized Schmidil's statement as a "departure" for the EPA, and some say the EPA's seemingly new stance is more congenial to Sunnyside's insistence that it is not liable for metal loading in the Upper Animas.

What is the EPA's opinion of Sunnyside's liability?

I'm on deadline. Please get back to me this evening or latest tomorrow morning. If you feel uncomfortable commenting on certain questions, feel free to simply respond that you do not feel comfortable commenting.

Yours,  
Chase

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Chase Olivarius-McAllister  
*Durango Herald*

Staff Writer

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